

Steginoporella buskii Harmer, 1900. Tilbrook, 2006, p.81, pl.13F.

Steginoporella buskii Harmer, 1926
Plate 13F

Steganoporella buskii Harmer, 1926: 272, figs 13, 33-35.

Membranipora magnilabris Busk, 1854 (part): 62.

Steganoporella buskii: Cook, 1964: 46, Fig. 1, figs 1-3; text-Fig. 1 (cum syn.).

Steginoporella buskii: Pouyet & David, 1979b: 771, text-Fig. 2; Fig. 1, Fig. 9; Winston & Heimberg, 1986: 11, figs 19-22 (cum. syn.); Hayward, 1988: 282.

Type material Holotype: NHM 1903.5.6.3, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Jelly Coll.

Other material examined SBMNH 365151, **408-84**; NHM 1932.4.20.36, Low Island, off Port Douglas, N. Queensland; NHM 1882.2.23.396-400, Thursday Island, Torres Strait, 4 fms, "Alert"; [Harmer's (1900) specimen *e*, NHM 1882.2.23.512 is *S. haddoni* from Port Darwin].

Description Colony forming flat, encrusting sheets. Autozooids large (0.85 x 0.65 mm) rounded distally, concave proximally, distinct. Frontal area covered by thick, opaque membrane, greenish-coloured, bordered by a thin, raised, mural rim. A-zooids with semicircular operculum, as wide as zooid, less than half as long, orange-brown arching, crescentic sclerite and a submarginal series of small teeth on inner surface. B-zooids with larger, wider operculum, as wide as zooid only 40% of length, orange-brown wishbone-shaped sclerite and a submarginal series of small teeth on inner surface. Cryptocyst occupying about half total length of autozooid; central portion dipping proximally, smooth, with numerous perforations. Polypide tube rounded, situated centrally and vertically, visible in frontal view. Distal edge of frontal cryptocyst, immediately above the polypide tube, slightly flared as a slightly concave process with a small pair of rather gracile, marginal flanges. Gymnocyst barely visible as a smooth, raised distal margin surrounding and supporting operculum, ending at lateral opercular condyles, below which is a broad "oral shelf".

Remarks *Steginoporella buskii* is characterised by its gracile median process and associated flanges. A- and B-zooids have opercula of a similar colour but while those of the A-zooids have crescentic sclerites, those of the B-zooids are wishbone-shaped.

Distribution *Steginoporella buskii* has been recorded from a number of localities in the Atlantic Ocean, off Brazil, Caribbean Sea, Sierra Leone and Ghana, and the Indo-Pacific, from South Africa and Sri Lanka to Indonesia, Torres Strait and the Queensland coast of Australia. In the Solomon Islands only a single colony was found from Taora Passage between Choiseul and Vealaviru. This is the easternmost record for this species to date.

